

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the final Office Action dated November 29, 2007 (the "Action"). Claims 1-5, 9 and 11-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040203873 to Gray (Gray) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0203890 to Karaoguz (Karaoguz). Claims 6, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and as being unpatentable over Gray in view Karaoguz and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0136949 to Barnes (Barnes).

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections under § 103 in view of the amendments above and at least for the reasons that follow.

I. Independent Claims 1, 17 and 20 are patentable over Gray

Claim 1 recites a method for directing a mobile user to a wireless network access point including:

- receiving a mobile user request for a location of a wireless network access point via a user terminal, wherein the user request comprises one or more amenities including one or more of a hotel, a restaurant, a store, a park and an airport;

- identifying a geographic location of the mobile user responsive to receiving the user request; and

- identifying a wireless network access point convenient to the user that provides access to the one or more amenities based on stored data including the physical location or address of a wireless network and the amenities available at or near the wireless network;

- wherein the user request includes a particular service provider associated with the wireless network and identifying a wireless network access point further comprises identifying a wireless network access point provided by the particular service provider.

Independent Claims 17 and 20 include recitations similar to Claim 1. Claims 1, 17 and 20 are amended above to include substantially the recitations of original Claim 10. As noted above, Claim 10 stands rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Grey in view of Karaoguz and in further view of Barnes.

The Action concedes that Grey and Karaoguz do not disclose identifying a wireless network access point provided by a particular service provider. The Action takes the position that Barnes discloses “a mobile terminal selecting a communication system based on availability and cost, among other parameters” and concludes that it would have been obvious to modify Grey and Karaoguz to “effectively select a service provider based on the user needs.” The Action also states that Grey discloses that a user request includes a particular service provider associated with the wireless network in paragraph 35.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Action's characterization of the cited references and submit that these features are not disclosed or rendered obvious by Grey, Karaoguz and Barnes. In fact, Applicants cannot locate any portion of any of the references cited in the Action as discussing requests for particular service providers.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 17 and 20, the user request includes a particular service provider, *e.g.*, so that users can choose a particular service provider of an identified wireless network access convenient to the user. A wireless network access point provided by the particular service provider can be identified.

In contrast to the recitations of Claims 1, 17 and 20, Barnes proposes selecting a communication system based on availability and cost, *i.e.*, to increase efficiency or increase throughput. *See* paragraphs 65-66. Accordingly, Barnes does not disclose a user request that includes a particular service provider or that an identified network access point is provided by a particular service provider identified in a user request.

These recitations are also not disclosed by Karaoguz and Grey. The Action states that Grey discloses that the user request includes a particular service provider associated with the wireless network at paragraph 35. Paragraph 35 of Grey is reproduced in its entirety below:

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, steps 1 and 2 can alternatively involve WAN user 52 requesting positions and/or directions to one or more nearby WLAN access points 24. Thereby, enabling WAN user 52 to access high speed WLAN network 20 to send an e-mail with attachment, browse the Internet, download file from a website, etc.

Applicants submit that a request for positioning and/or directing a user to one or more nearby WLAN access points is not analogous to a request that includes a particular service provider associated with the wireless network because WLAN access points may be provided by any service provider and Grey apparently makes no distinction between service providers.

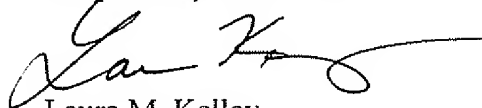
Applicants submit that there is no apparent reason to modify Grey (which discusses requests for WLAN access points) and Barnes (which merely proposes characteristics such as availability and cost) to include the features that the user request includes a particular service provider associated with the wireless network and a wireless network access point provided by the particular service provider is identified.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Claims 1, 17 and 20 and Claims 2-7, 9, 11-16 and 21-22 depending therefrom are patentable over Grey, Karaoguz and Barnes. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under § 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

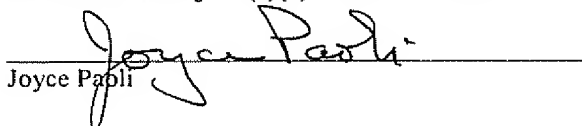


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 31, 2008.



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